

From: Merlin DuVall
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/5/02 2:40pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

Dear Sir / Ms,

This message is probably one that would be agreed with by the majority of business owners world wide.

The user ability of a computer and software is all important in the daily survival of small and large businesses.

The compatibility of the programs in MS Office is all important, and is not duplicated elsewhere although they are getting better. That is competition at it's best.

The problem of hackers and viruses today would be magnified greatly is the windows information was made available for industry use.

Although the legal process is primarily concerned with domestic monopolies I would like to make the point that the world market is getting smaller fast, and even the events September 11th illustrate how we cannot help but look beyond the boundaries of the USA when considering what the ramifications are decision made here.

Foreign computer hard ware and soft ware manufactures are going to benefit most by any information that is made non proprietary by the court decisions.

Keeping technology in this country should be the primary concern.

The settlement must take these points into consideration and not just the complaints of computer companies in this country that have put their ladders against the wrong wall as far as illustrating that they cannot operate their businesses without gaining ms proprietary information.

Thank you in advance for considering my opinion.

Merlin D. DuVall CEO

The MERLIN Process